MARVEL
10c
NO. 60
MYSTERY
COMICS
DEC.
SUPER ROCKET SHELL

MARVEL
10¢
NO. 60
COMICS
OCT.
SUPER ROCKET SHELL

New ENLARGEMENT 3¢ STAMP

Just to Get Acquainted We Will Beautifully Enlarge Your Favorite Snapshot, Photo, Kodak Picture, Print or Negative to 5 x 7 Inches If You Enclose the Coupon and a 3 Cent Stamp for Return Mailing!

Everyone admires pictures in natural colors because the surroundings and loved ones are so true to life, just the way they looked when the pictures were taken, so we want you to know also about our gorgeous colored enlargements. Think of having that small picture or snapshot enlarged to 5 by 7-inch size so that the details and features you love are more life-like and natural.

Over one million men and women have sent us their favorite snapshots and pictures for enlarging. Thousands write us how much they also enjoy their remarkably true-to-life, natural colored enlargements we have sent them in handsome black and gold, or ivory and gold frames.

You are now given a wonderful opportunity to receive a beautiful enlargement of your cherished snapshot, photo or Kodak picture. Please include the color of hair and eyes and get our new bargain offer giving you your choice of handsome frames with a second enlargement beautifully hand tinted in natural lifelike oil colors and sent on approval. Your original is returned with your enlargement. This amazing enlargement offer is our way of getting acquainted and letting you know the quality of our work. Send today as supplies are limited.

DEAN STUDIOS, Dept. 944, 211 W. 7th St., Des Moines, Iowa

Enclose this coupon with your favorite snapshot, picture or negative and send to DEAN STUDIOS, Dept. 944, 211 W. 7th St., Des Moines, Iowa.

Name .... Color of Hair ....

Address .... Color of Eyes ....

City .... State ....

NEW *True-Love and Friendship* *Sterling Silver* RING and Matching EARRINGS

PENDANT HEART DESIGN

What makes both the ring and the matching earrings so unusual and attractive is the twin Sterling Silver Pendant Hearts that dangle daintily. [illegible]

$1.95 EACH — 10 DAYS TRIAL

SEND NO MONEY

Mail the coupon today. Your package sent immediately and you pay postman only $1.95 each plus a few cents mailing cost and 20% Federal Tax for either the ring or earrings on arrival. SEND NO MONEY with order. Wear 10 days on money back guarantee.

EXTRA WIDE

SEND TODAY **GIVEN**

If you order BOTH the Ring AND Earrings and send your order PROMPTLY. Beautiful genuine leather photo folder. (Comes with pictures of two popular Movie Stars.)

EMPIRE DIAMOND CO., Dept. 212 LP Jefferson, Iowa

I want to take advantage of your special bargain offer. Please send me the following:

☐ Extra Wide Band Sterling Silver "Forget-Me-Not" Ring

☐ Matching Sterling Silver Pendant Heart Earrings

I understand I can return my order within 10 days for any reason and you will refund promptly.

Name ....

Address ....

City ....

State .... Ring Size ....

Beautiful Simulated BIRTHSTONE RING GIVEN *AWAY*

Also Other Valuable Gifts.

Smart, new, dainty, Sterling Silver Ring set with sparkling simulated Birthstone correct for your birth date—GIVEN for selling only 5 boxes of Gold Crown Spot Remover and Cleaner at 25c each and returning the money collected. Dozens of other useful and valuable gifts (Hose, Pens, Scissors, Rings, Lockets, Costume Jewelry, etc.) are also offered in our free catalog-circular. Send name and address today for order and catalog to start.

Birthstone Ring Given for Selling 5 boxes.

Hollywood Ladies' Hose for selling 10 boxes.

Beautiful Telescope for spotting planes. Given for selling 10 boxes.

Ladies' Locket Given for Selling 5 boxes.

Just Send The Coupon We TRUST You

Many find it's easy to cover their purchase. Send coupon today.

GOLD CROWN PRODUCTS, Dept. E-161 Jefferson, Iowa

Enclose this coupon in an envelope or paste it on a postcard and send it to GOLD CROWN PRODUCTS, Dept. E-161 Jefferson, Iowa, for order to start.

NAME ....

ADDRESS ....

CITY .... STATE ....

MARVEL MYSTERY COMICS is published monthly at Meriden, Conn., by Marvel Comics, Inc. Entered as second class matter at the post office at Meriden, Conn., under Act of March 3, 1879. Contents copyright 1944 by Marvel Comics, Inc. 350 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y. Martin Goodman, Pres. Vol. 1, No. 60, December, 1944 issue. Yearly subscription $1.00 in the U.S.A. Art and editorial by Funnies, Inc. [illegible] similarity between any of the names, characters, persons and/or institutions appearing in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and that any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. Printed in the U.S.A.

THE
HUMAN
TORCH
"DEATH SPINS
THE WHEEL!"

OUR STORY OPENS AT A GAMBLING HOUSE LARGE MID-WEST DEFENSE PLANT TOWN!
HEY, JOE! HERE COMES THE GUY WE'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR! DOES HE LOOK IT?
OH PAYDAY? DON'T BET! TAKE HIS ROLL! BUT DON'T LET HIM CATCH YOU CHEATIN'!
FIVE BUCKS ON THE RED!
AROUND AND AROUND SHE GOES AND WHERE SHE STOPS NOBODY KNOWS!
MAYER STOOPS TO PICK UP A FALLEN CHIP!!!
THE LITTLE BALL GOES HOME! IT IS LIKE RED! NOPE, IT'S—!
OOPS! DROPPED SOME—! HMM?
AND SEES THAT THE GAME IS FIXED!
BOUNCERS! FROM THEN ON, WHEN THE UNDERWORLD CONVERGES!
YOU CHEAP CROOKS! TO HOPED TO GET SOME-THING ON US! NOW I HAVE IT!!
BLACK, WINS! YOU LOSE! HEY! BOUNCERS!
YOU CROOK! I SAW YOU STOPPED THE BALL! I'LL—!
2.

YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO, BOYS!
I KNOW YOU'VE BEEN PLAYING ME AND EVERY DECENT MAN IN TOWN, BUT WE'LL CLOSE YOU FOR THIS!
MINUTES LATER---
OKAY, BOYS---TO THE RIVER WITH IM!---I'LL PUT THE FINISHING TOUCHES TO IM---THERE!
WHY?---OHHHH!
LATER---THAT SAME EVENING!
DEFENSE WORKER FOUND SUICIDE!
MYSTERY SURROUNDS MOTIVE OF FRED MAYER'S SUICIDE!
AND SOME DISTANCE AWAY IN THEIR NEW YORK APARTMENT!
H'MM---THERE'S SOMETHING FISHY ABOUT THIS SUICIDE, JAY!
IF YOU THINK THAT FISHY---HE SHOULD BE IN THAT TOWN AMETHYST IT!
WHO DO YOU STAND IN WITH TORCH?
INSTANTLY THE FIERY DUO FLAME!
MRS. MAYER---THE VICTIM'S WIFE---SHE MAY BE ABLE TO TELL US SOMETHING!

A FEW HOURS LATER···
FLAME OUT, KID! THIS IS IT!
RIGHT, TORCH! LET'S HOPE SHE CAN GIVE US SOMETHING TO WORK ON!
THEY ARE RECEIVED BY MRS. MAYER:
YOU SAY THE CORONER'S VERDICT WAS DEATH BY DROWNING!
YES! HE CLAIMED THERE WERE NO MARKS OF VIOLENCE··· BUT I STILL THINK FRED WAS MURDERED!
BY WHOM?
THE GAMBLING CROWD! I BELIEVE HE GOT INFORMATION HE NEEDED TO CLOSE THEM UP! THEY PROBABLY KILLED HIM TO SILENCE HIM! THE RACKETEERS AND THE LAW ARE ONE IN THIS TOWN!
HAVING RECEIVED THE INFORMATION THEY SOUGHT, THE DUO FLAME FROM THE MAYER HOME!
MAYER'S BODY IS STILL IN THE MORGUE! LET'S TAKE A LOOK AT IT!
AWW, TORCH! YOU KNOW I DON'T LIKE MORGUES!
MOMENTS LATER-- THE CITY MORGUE--
I'LL TRY TO ROUSE THE ATTENDANT!
BR-R-R, I DON'T LIKE THIS!
WHAT D'YOU WANT?
WE WANT TO SEE THE BODY OF FRED MAYER!
4

Y'UH DON'T SEE NOTHIN'--NOW GIT!
I DON'T! I'M HERE TO SEE MAYER'S BODY AND I'M GOING TO!
HOW DO YOU LIKE THAT?
BUT WHAT WILL OLD SOUR-PUSS SAY?
WE'LL TAKE CARE OF HIS OBJECTIONS!
PUSHING THROUGH THE DOOR--!
LOOK OUT! HE'S GOT A GUN--!
YOU--! I THOUGHT I TOLD--- AWKKK!
SORRY, BUT I MUST SEE MAYER'S BODY!
THE DUO QUICKLY EXAMINE MAYER'S BODY!
DO YOU SEE ANYTHING, TORCH?
SOMEONE WAS LYING! HERE'S PROOF THAT MAYER WAS MURDERED!
WHERE? I DON'T SEE ANYTHING!
THAT LITTLE RED MARK IN THE EAR! SOME-ONE SLIPPED A SHARP INSTRUMENT THRU HIS EAR INTO HIS BRAIN!
THEN MRS. MAYER WAS RIGHT!
RIGHT! IT'S OBVIOUS HE CAUGHT THEM CHEAT-ING AND THEY KILLED HIM TO KEEP HIM QUIET!
5

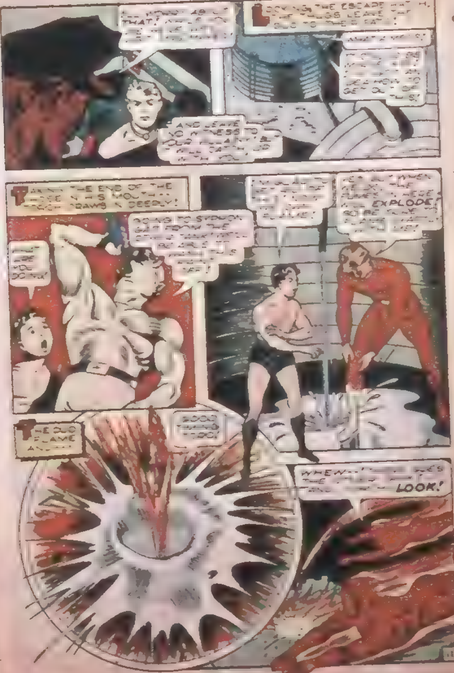
NOW WHAT?
WE'LL PASS OURSELVES OFF AS DEFENSE WORKERS AND CIRCULATE AMONG THE GAMBLING JOINTS! MAYBE WE CAN DIG UP SOMETHING!
SOMETIME LATER....
JOE'S PLACE, EH? WELL, THIS IS AS GOOD AS ANY! LET'S TRY IT!
RIGHT, TORCH!
JOE'S
CASSINO
ENTERING...THE DUO PAUSE BEFORE A POKER...!
TORCH-- YOU SEE WHAT I SEE?
AND
I SAW YOU GRAB THAT ACE!
WHAT, WHY YOU HAYSEED! BOUNCERS! THROW THIS CRUMB OUT!
THE BOUNCERS APPEAR...
HONEST JOE, EH?
AHHHHH
6

BUT REINFORCEMENTS ARRIVE, AND---!
GIT OUT AND DON'T EVER COME BACK!!
I'VE A HUNCH THAT MAYOR WAS MURDERED BY SOMEONE IN THIS PLACE!
WELL, WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO ABOUT IT?
THE DUO FLAME OUT!
PLENTY! FIRST WE'LL SEE THE POLICE CHIEF!
ARRIVING AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS, THE DUO FLAME CUT---!
I'D LIKE TO SEE CHIEF BRAINERD!
FIRST DOOR TO Y' RIGHT DOWN THE HALL!
SECONDS LATER---!
HMM--- OH---! HELLO, CHIEF BRAINERD!
YES---WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU?
ANSWER A FEW QUESTIONS ABOUT MAYOR MAYER!
MAYER? THE GUY WHO COMMITTED SUICIDE!
NO, CHIEF! HE WAS MURDERED RIGHT IN YOUR OFFICE!

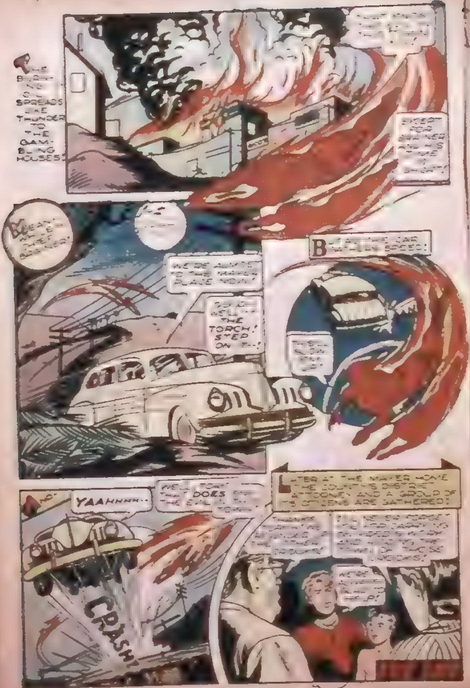
MURDERED? JOES?
WE SHOULDA KILLED
THOSE HAYSEEDS, BOSS!
LET ME OUTA HERE!
NO! NO! I'LL TALK!
8

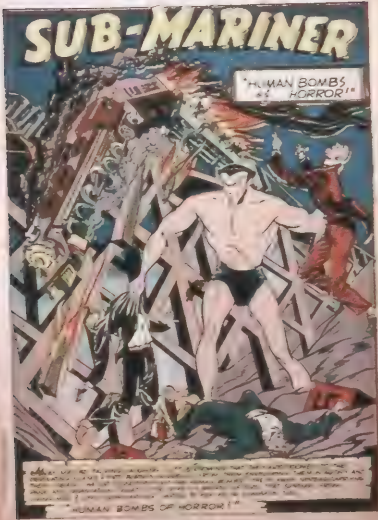
SUDDENLY--!
OKAY, I'LL TALK! IT'S--AHHHH--
TORO RETURNS EMPTY-HANDED!
NO! BUT I THINK I DO!

THE DUO ARE CARRIED TO A POINT OVERLOOKING THE GAMBLING DISTRICT OF THE TOWN!
HEY! WHAT IS THIS?
THE HELPLESS DUO ARE FORCED TO CLIMB TO THE TOP OF THE GAS TANK!



EXPLODE
LOOK!


SPREADS
THUNDER TO THE GAM-BLING HOUSES!
THE TORCH! STEP ON IT!
YAAHHHH...
DOES
LATER AT THE MAYOR'S HOME THE COUNTY'S DISTRICT ATTORNEY AND A GROUP OF ITS CITIZENS ARE GATHERED!
CRASH!


SUB-MARINER
"HUMAN BOMBS OF HORROR!"
USS
"HUMAN BOMBS OF HORROR!"

POWERFUL EXPLOSIVES!
INSIDE THE PLANT A WORKER GOES TO CLOSE A WINDOW
HELP!
BOOM

FIRE

HELP
SPLASH!

GET HIM!
CRASH!

...AND SWIMS SWIFTLY TOWARD IT...
IN A FEW MOMENTS

FIND OUT!

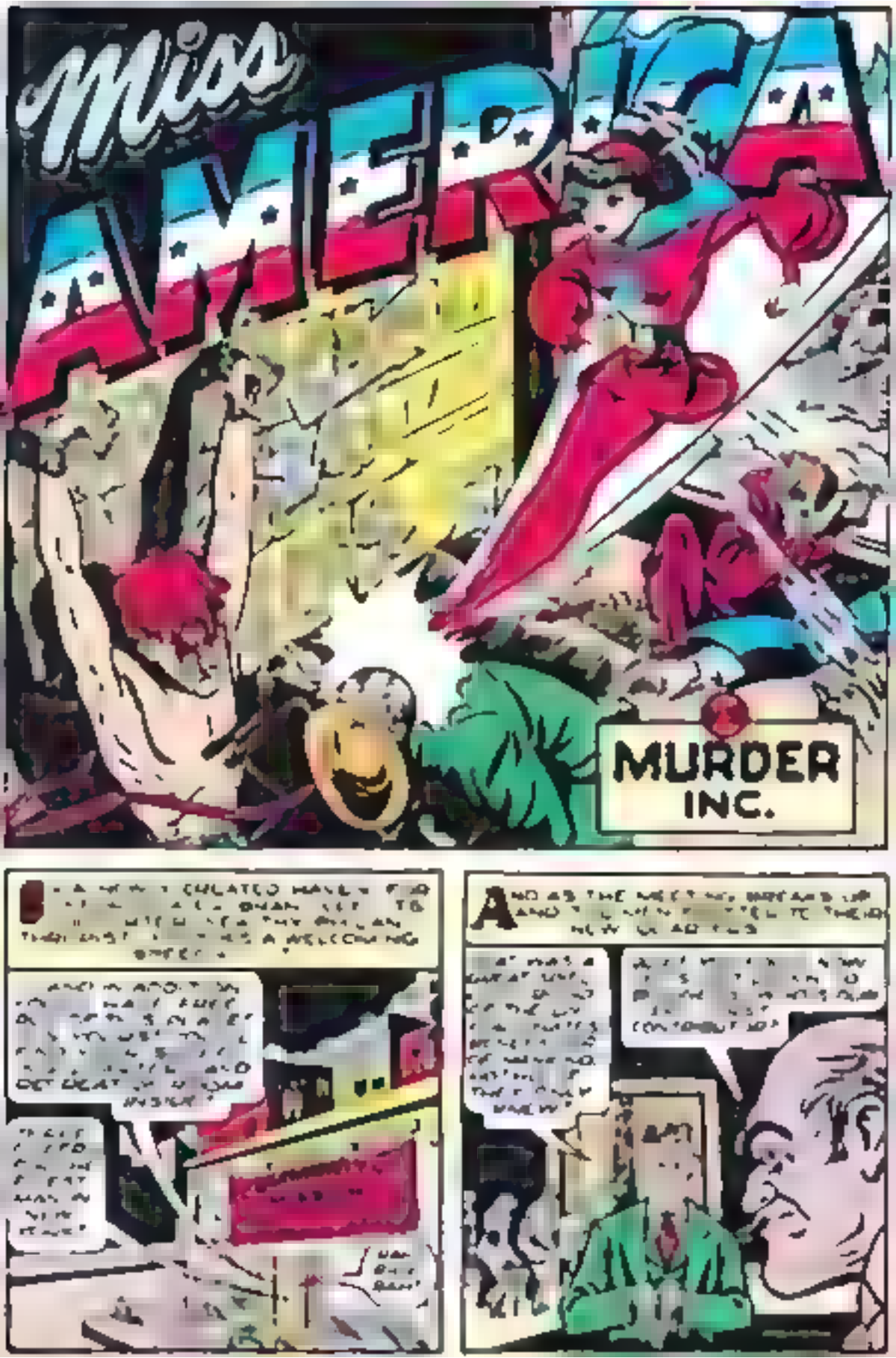
AWK!
SPLASH!
SUB-MARINER SEARCHES THE SWEATER...

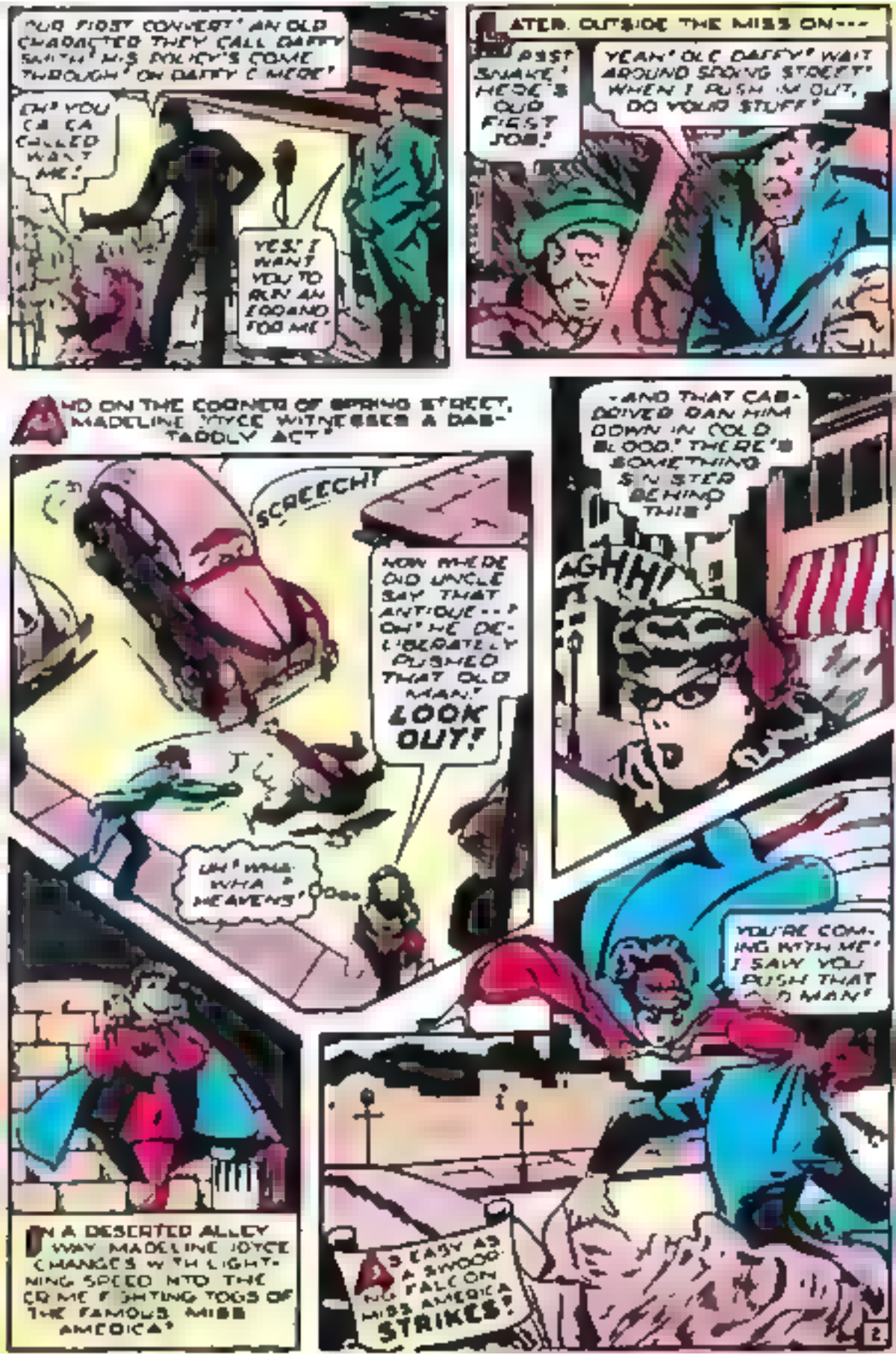
MURDERERS!
YANKEE STYLE

SOCK!
THE NAZI REGAINS CONSCIOUSNESS!

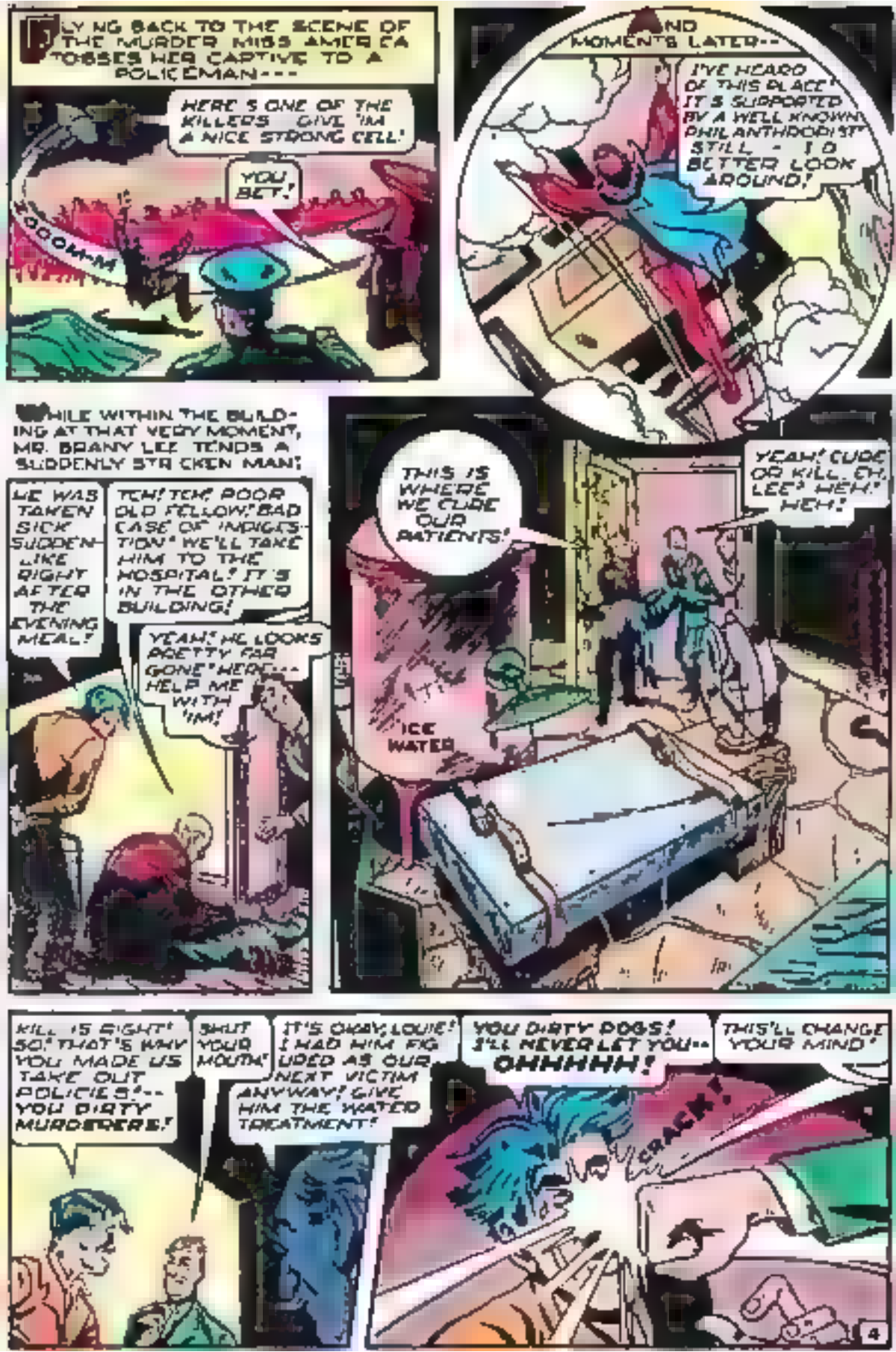
AS A DYNAMIC FIGURE BURSTS INTO THE SHACK!
...AND HURLS HIM AGAINST THE WALL OF THE SHACK.

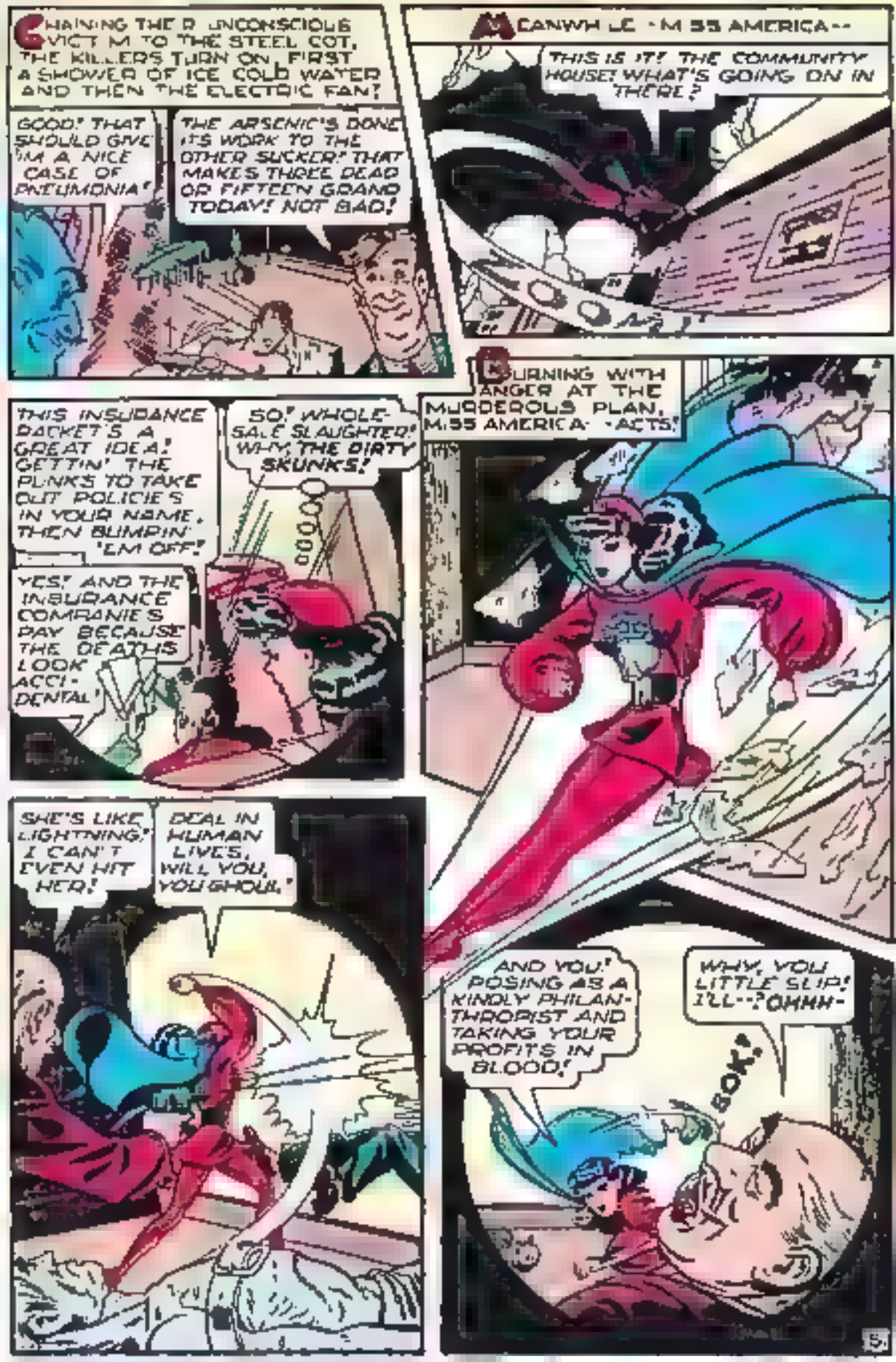
HELLO HELLO!

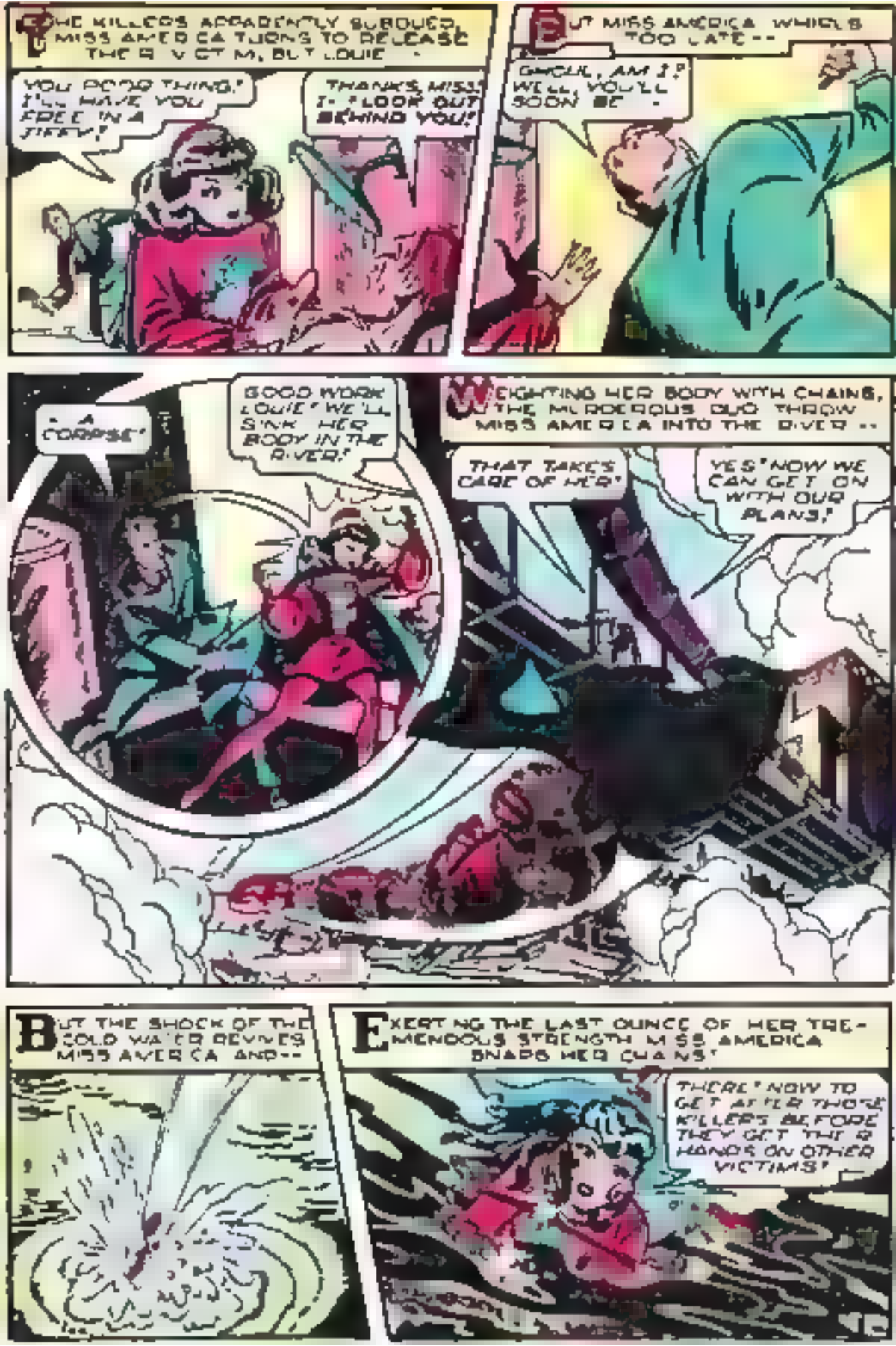

Miss AMERICA
MURDER INC.

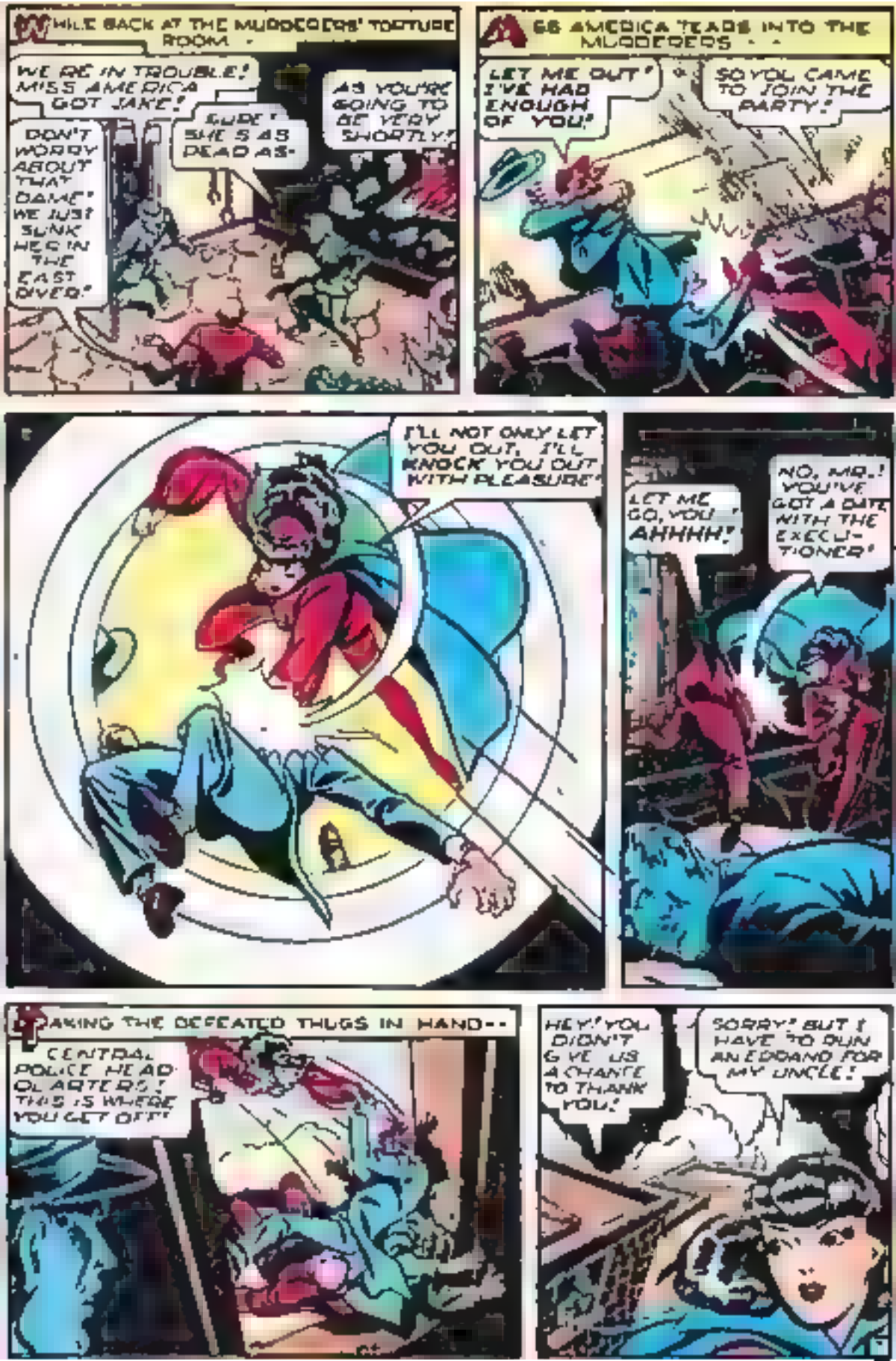

OUR FIRST CONVERT' AN OLD CHARACTER THEY CALL DAFFY SAITH' HIS POLICY'S COME THROUGH' ON DAFFY C MEDE'
EH' YOU CA CA CALLED WANT ME!
YES' I WANT YOU TO RUN AN ED AND FOO ME'
LATER. OUTSIDE THE MISS ON---
PSST SNAKE' HERE'S OUR FIRST JOB!
YEAH' OLE DAFFY' WAIT AROUND SOME STREET' WHEN I PUSH IM OUT, DO YOUR STUFF'
AND ON THE CORNER OF SPRING STREET, MADELINE JOYCE WITNESSES A DASTARDLY ACT'
SCREECH!
NOW WHERE DID UNCLE SAY THAT ANTIQUE--? OH' HE DELIBERATELY PUSHED THAT OLD MAN!
LOOK OUT!
UH! WHA WHA ? HEAVENS'
-AND THAT CAB-DRIVER RAN HIM DOWN IN COLD BLOOD! THERE'S SOMETHING SINISTER BEHIND THIS
AGHH!
YOU'RE COMING WITH ME' I SAW YOU PUSH THAT OLD MAN!
IN A DESERTED ALLEY WAY MADELINE JOYCE CHANGES WITH LIGHTNING SPEED INTO THE CRIME FIGHTING TOGS OF THE FAMOUS MISS AMERICA'
AS EASY AS A SWOOP THE FALCON MISS AMERICA STRIKES!
2

AND ZOOMS AFTER THE FLEEING CAB!
NOW TO CATCH THAT HOVER AND SEE WHAT WHAT ON EARTH'S HAPPENIN YOU TWO SQUARES
SWOOPS THE SWERVING FALCON WHILE STARTLED THE TWO LOSES CONTROL OF HIS CAR
MISS AMERICA! VIIIIIIIIII!
CRASH!
STAY PUT! I CAN'T LET YOU B PAL BUSH JUST YET!
STAY PUT? FAT CHANCE!
HELP! HELP!
SAVING THE CAB DRIVER MISS AMERICA TURNS TO FIND HER WHAT CAN'VE GONE!
THERE! NOW FOR YOU'D PAL! WHY HE'S GONE ALL PANT! I SUPPOSE YOU'LL TELL ME WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT!
I DON'T KNOW FROM NOTHIN!
NO! REQ- HAVE THIS WILL REFRESH YOUR MEMORY!
WHOOSH IS STILL D OUN'T KNOW
IF YOU DON'T WANT TO MESS UP THE STOLET YOU'D BET- TER TALK!
NO! NO! I'LL TALK! GO TO THE COMMU NITY! YOU'LL FIND YOUR ANSWER THERE!


LY NG BACK TO THE SCENE OF THE MURDER MISS AMER CA TOSSES HER CAPTIVE TO A POLICEMAN---
HERE'S ONE OF THE KILLERS GIVE 'IM A NICE STRONG CELL!
YOU BET!
ZOOOM-M
ND MOMENTS LATER--
I'VE HEARD OF THIS PLACE! IT'S SUPPORTED BY A WELL KNOWN PHILANTHROPIST STILL - I'D BETTER LOOK AROUND!
HILE WITHIN THE BUILD-ING AT THAT VERY MOMENT, MR. BRANNY LEE TENDS A SUDDENLY STR CKEN MAN!
HE WAS TAKEN SICK SUDDEN-LIKE RIGHT AFTER THE EVENING MEAL!
TCH! TCH! POOR OLD FELLOW! BAD CASE OF INDIGES-TION! WE'LL TAKE HIM TO THE HOSPITAL! IT'S IN THE OTHER BUILDING!
YEAH! HE LOOKS PRETTY FAR GONE! HERE--- HELP ME WITH 'IM!
THIS IS WHERE WE CURE OUR PATIENTS!
YEAH! CURE OR KILL, OH, LEE! HEH! HEH!
ICE WATER
KILL IS RIGHT! SO! THAT'S WHY YOU MADE US TAKE OUT POLICIES!-- YOU DIRTY MURDERERS!
SHUT YOUR MOUTH!
IT'S OKAY, LOUIE! I HAD HIM FIG URED AS OUR NEXT VICTIM ANYWAY! GIVE HIM THE WATER TREATMENT!
YOU DIRTY DOGS! I'LL NEVER LET YOU-- OHHHHH!
CRACK!
THIS'LL CHANGE YOUR MIND!
4


CHAINING THE UNCONSCIOUS VICTIM TO THE STEEL COT, THE KILLERS TURN ON FIRST A SHOWER OF ICE COLD WATER AND THEN THE ELECTRIC FAN!
GOOD! THAT SHOULD GIVE 'IM A NICE CASE OF PNEUMONIA!
THE ARSENIC'S DONE ITS WORK TO THE OTHER SUCKER! THAT MAKES THREE DEAD OR FIFTEEN GRAND TODAY! NOT BAD!
MEANWHILE - MISS AMERICA--
THIS IS IT! THE COMMUNITY HOUSE! WHAT'S GOING ON IN THERE?
BURNING WITH ANGER AT THE MURDEROUS PLAN, MISS AMERICA -ACTS!
THIS INSURANCE RACKET'S A GREAT IDEA! GETTIN' THE PUNKS TO TAKE OUT POLICIES IN YOUR NAME, THEN BUMPIN' 'EM OFF!
SO! WHOLESALE SLAUGHTER! WHY, THE DIRTY SKUNKS!
YES! AND THE INSURANCE COMPANIES PAY BECAUSE THE DEATHS LOOK ACCIDENTAL!
SHE'S LIKE LIGHTNING! I CAN'T EVEN HIT HER!
DEAL IN HUMAN LIVES, WILL YOU, YOU GHOUL!
AND YOU! POSING AS A KINDLY PHILANTHROPIST AND TAKING YOUR PROFITS IN BLOOD!
WHY, YOU LITTLE SLIP! I'LL--? OHMM-
GOK!
5


THE KILLERS APPARENTLY SUBDUED, MISS AMERICA TURNS TO RELEASE THE REVOLVER, BUT LOUIE--
YOU GOOD THING, I'LL HAVE YOU FREE IN A JIFFY!
THANKS, MISS! I--LOOK OUT BEHIND YOU!
BUT MISS AMERICA WHIRLS TOO LATE--
GHOUL, AM I? WELL, YOU'LL SOON BE--
GOOD WORK LOUIE! WE'LL SINK HER BODY IN THE RIVER!
A CORPSE!
WEIGHTING HER BODY WITH CHAINS, THE MURDEROUS DUO THROW MISS AMERICA INTO THE RIVER--
THAT TAKES CARE OF HER!
YES! NOW WE CAN GET ON WITH OUR PLANS!
BUT THE SHOCK OF THE COLD WATER REVIVES MISS AMERICA AND--
EXERTING THE LAST OUNCE OF HER TREMENDOUS STRENGTH MISS AMERICA SNAPS HER CHAINS!
THERE! NOW TO GET AFTER THOSE KILLERS BEFORE THEY GET THEIR HANDS ON OTHER VICTIMS!


WHILE BACK AT THE MUDDERS' TORTURE ROOM--
WE'RE IN TROUBLE! MISS AMERICA GOT JAKE!
SURE! SHE'S AS DEAD AS-
AS YOU'RE GOING TO BE VERY SHORTLY!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT DAME! WE JUST SUNK HER IN THE EAST RIVER!
AS AMERICA LEADS INTO THE MUDDERERS--
LET ME OUT! I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF YOU!
SO YOU CAME TO JOIN THE PARTY!
I'LL NOT ONLY LET YOU OUT, I'LL KNOCK YOU OUT WITH PLEASURE!
LET ME GO, YOU, AHHHH!
NO, MR.! YOU'VE GOT A DATE WITH THE EXECUTIONER!
TAKING THE DEFEATED THUGS IN HAND--
CENTRAL POLICE HEADQUARTERS! THIS IS WHERE YOU GET OFF!
HEY! YOU DIDN'T GIVE US A CHANCE TO THANK YOU!
SORRY! BUT I HAVE TO RUN AN ERRAND FOR MY UNCLE!

The KEY

THEY must have had it hot and heavy, Bowman and Mallory. Dad Mallory didn't talk much about his end of the business, so no one knew for sure just what happened when he detailed Bowman, the new guy, into the office.

Luke Masters was blowing sad-sounding ditties on his mouth orchestra after supper. We were hanging around outside the bunk house. Bowman was sitting there, looking ornery and maybe just a little scared.

Out of the crowd came a voice. I know it but Bowman didn't. It said, "Two strikes on Bowman. One more and he's out—"

"Don't kid yourself, wise guy." Bowman snapped back, grey eyes giving the gang the once over, trying to figure out who'd sounded off. "You've gotta get up before breakfast to put anything over on Bill Bowman. You don't know me."

"You don't know Dad Mallory." Luke Masters stopped long enough to shake the spit out of his harmonica. "He knows why you came all the way up here."

"For a job, of course." Bowman's face looked sweated, his eyes narrowed, scared. "I—my doc says I needed outdoor work—"

"Sure. You're patriotic and figured this was helping your country."

"Why you—"

But Luke wrapped his lips around the mouth organ and started to play. Bowman gave him a look that would have killed an ordinary man, got up and slouched away.

• • • • •

HE'S a hard customer. Easy to see that. But so is Mallory. The old man's got a boy over in the Pacific somewhere and a daughter is an army nurse. He's a square-shooter and won't take any nonsense from anyone.

I guess it was because we were short-handed already that Mallory took the guy on. Logging is tough, and although Bowman was tough in his way, we didn't figure he'd be able to take it.

He had spent more than a little time cussing the old man out. It happened one afternoon when we were out working. Luke Masters had jumped him about it.

"You're the wrong guy to talk about Mallory," Luke had said. "None of us would, and I'm danged sure you won't get away with it."

"Yeah? Because of what?, I suppose you figure I can't take care of myself?" Bowman's lips thinned. "I know my way around," he boasted. "So far's Mallory's concerned—"

Luke worked in close, his fists doubled, hanging onto the ends of powerful, long arms. "You're a wise guy," Luke snarled. "Smart enough not to tell it to Mallory's face. You're yellow, and for two bits—"

We got 'em apart, but Bowman's eyes had a sneaky look.

• • • • •

MALLORY wasn't afraid of any of the work, from the cutting and trimming right on down to the time when we floated the stuff down river to the mill. We thought nothing of seeing him out on the middle of a boom, a peavey in his big, raw-boned hands like a lance in the hands of one of those old-time warriors you see pictures about.

Mallory kept Bowman with him almost all the time. The next day we were out cutting. Mallory was there with Bowman. It wasn't anything out of the ordinary. Luke Masters and Henry Wright dropped their tree, and when it started, Luke yelled, "Fall," and everyone got out of the way.

Bowman got out the wrong way. He didn't stop to look. We yelled at him, but because of the noise of the falling tree, he didn't hear. He wasn't killed but some of the limbs caught him, knocked him flat and out of breath.

Later he blew his top. "That darn Mallory. He wouldn't put a guy wise. He's picking on the wrong bird!"

"Take it easy." Luke Masters edged up to where Bowman leaned against the side of the bunk house, letting off steam. "You're talking about Mallory. He's the wrong guy to talk about

that way. I told you that, once before."

And the next day Bowman was called into the old man's office again. It was Spike Danvers who gave us the low-down later.

"Guess the old man smells a rat," Spike admitted to a few of us. "He sure talked cold-turkey. He wanted to know what Bowman was doing up here, in the first place. Wanted to know if he was hiding. Mallory isn't nobody's fool—"

"Neither is Bowman. He's got it in for the old man right now. If he tries anything, you can be sure it isn't going to be right out in front of all of us!"

Nothing happened till the day of the log-jam just above the bend in the river.

* * * * *

THAT'S a time when we were kept plenty busy—had to keep the logs going down river straight, keep them from getting crowded and piling up. When there's a jam like that there's usually trouble. Sometimes it's necessary to use dynamite. There's usually one log, the key log, that ties up all the rest. If that one can be found and can be pried loose the jam usually breaks up. If a guy's working out in the middle of the jam on the river, he's got to move fast ... or he's mince-meat.

Mallory was on the job. And as usual he had Bowman right with him. In the last couple of days I'd been watching Bowman closely, and could see that he was about wound up and ready to go off. I didn't like it. I tried to keep close to them ... just in case.

When the logs jammed that day Mallory went out. And took Bowman along with him. Spike Danvers told us about what happened a couple of days later. Guess Dad Mallory spilled the story. Or enough of it so we could figure out what happened out there in the middle of the river.

Bowman was tight, his thin lips twisted up and dirty, his grey eyes watching Mallory as they picked their way out to the center of the twisted logs.

"You've got to be careful at a time like this," Mallory explained. "There's always a key log locking the rest. You find that, get your peavey in it and get it free, so the rest can break up—"

"You and your logs can go to blazes!" Bowman snarled, breaking into Mallory's explanations. "I've had enough. I'm getting out!" His face got red, then whitened around the edge of his mouth. "You been riding it on me heavy ever since I come. You've got it in for me, that's what! And I'm not taking it any more!"

Mallory just smiled and all the time he was working slowly across the jam, his eyes going over it, looking for the key. "You're nuts," he told Bowman. "Course I don't believe this yarn of yours—"

* * * * *

"SURE," Bowman snarled. "You figured it out for yourself. Okay. I'm hiding. I'm running away from the draft, because if they catch up with me and check my record ..." The guy took a deep breath. "They're going to find a lot of other things that ain't good. You got my number and now I'm getting out." His hand slid under his coat and was holding onto a revolver. "You nor nobody else is going to stop me. In fact ... I'm paying you off for not getting in my way. You're getting yours right now! Show you guys I'm not yellow. You and Luke Masters."

Mallory turned away, moving unconcernedly. "The key log," he called. "It's right here. Now if you'll watch—"

He drove the peavey in deep and the hook caught and sank into the log. And next instant Mallory threw his weight against it and the log turned, twisted slowly, then snapped around.

A second later the whole pile heaved in the middle and the sound was like thunder. Over to the side the whole jam sank and water rushed over it, foaming—

Mallory knew what was happening. He turned and started going. He'd done this all his life and didn't miss his footing once.

With Bowman it was different. He started in the wrong direction.

The logs were moving, the water rushing over them. He stopped, waving his arms to get his balance, then got turned around. He yelled once, a hoarse cry of fear that carried across the river—

He started to run but the jam broke up completely then with a grinding roar. Logs dipped and sank and rose again, some of them almost straight up in the air.

And next second ... Bowman slipped and fell and disappeared into the churning mass of logs as they tore free and started on down river.

Mallory stuck his peavey into a log, stood looking out over the river covered by a blanket of logs moving smoothly along. Luke Masters walked up.

"Bowman's done for. We found some of him below the rapids."

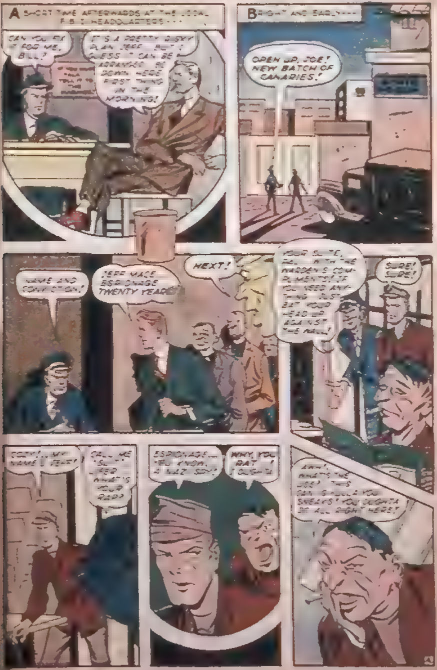
Mallory nodded, his face looking tired. "Accidental death, I guess you'll call it." He twisted the peavey handle slowly. "I tried to show him about that jam, but he had too much on his mind. Too much for his own good!"

THE END

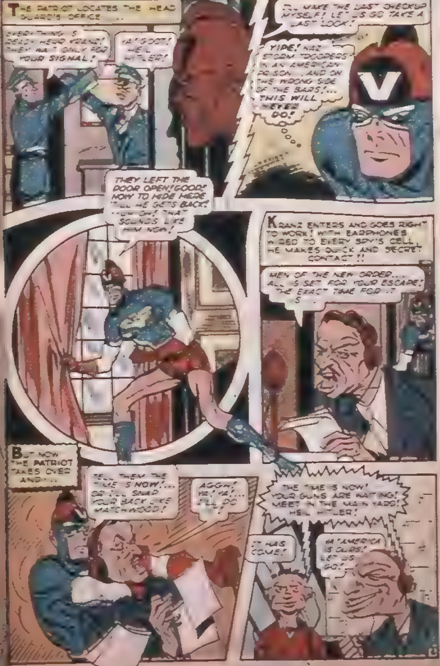
the PATRIOT
STATE PRISON
THE PATRIOT TURNS THE TIDE ON A TREACHEROUS WAVE OF INTERNATIONAL CRIME IN THIS DYNAMIC DRAMA IN WHICH TWO THOUSAND MEN LEARN THE TRUE MEANING OF DEMOCRACY EVEN BEHIND IRON BARS.
IN WHAT PRICE FREEDOM!
OUR SCENE OPENS IN THE NEWSPAPER OFFICE WHERE JEFF MACE ALIAS THE PATRIOT WORKS
IT'S FOR YOU JEFF
THANKS MARY
YOU'RE ON PAL. SHOOT!

HEY WHERE ARE YOU OFF TO IN SUCH A HURRY?
GOT A DATE WITH A BLONDE SEE YOU KIDS LATER
HE THROWING YOU OVER MARY?
NAH, THE BIG LUG... IF THAT WAS A BLONDE SHE HAS AN AWFULLY BASS VOICE C'MON. LET'S TRAIL HIM!
THIS LOOKS LIKE THE PLACE...NOW FOR SOME LIGHT ON THE SUBJECT!
JEFF MACE
MACE HUH? YEAH I GUESS SO... THE BACK ROOM ON THE THIRD FLOOR
KNOCK KNOCK
OKAY COME IN
MACE! JEFF MACE!
OKAY MAC NOW WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT?
HAVEN'T GOT MUCH TIME REPORTER TO KEEP YOUR EARS OPEN AND YOUR MOUTH SHUT AND YOU'LL GET THE BIGGEST STORY OF YOUR CAREER
MEANWHILE MARY AND CASEY ARE IN HOT PURSUIT OF JEFF
YOU SURE HE WENT THIS WAY?
POSITIVE KEEP A LOOKOUT FOR THAT CAR
3

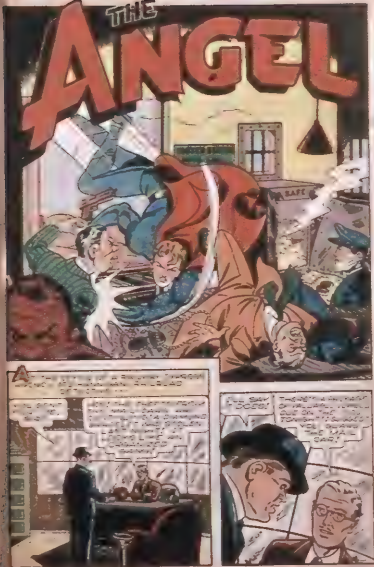
THERE'S THINGS GOIN' ON AT THE STATE PEN THAT'LL THROW THE WHOLE WAR EFFORT OUT OF GEAR UNLESS YOU CAN GET YOUR FRIEND THE PATRIOT INTERESTED. YOU SEE... I CAN'T GO TO THE COPS
SURE... GO ON
SUDDENLY
OKAY... WHAT'S THIS!
A TRAD!
?
GREETINGS JEFF. THOUGHT WE'D CUT IN FOR A CHANGE SO...
HEY MAC... WAIT
CRASH!
I'M GETTIN' OUTTA HERE
GOSH, JEFF, I'M SORRY IF WE QUEERED YOU
SKIP IT... HE'S GONE NOW ANYWAY
YOU'RE GETTING AWFULLY TOUCHY LATELY JEFF. WHAT YOU NEED IS A NICE LONG REST SOME...
YEAH!
THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I HAVE IN MIND. SEE YOU IN A COUPLE OF WEEKS
?
???
LATER
SORRY I HAD TO TREAT THEM LIKE THAT... BUT IT'LL SAVE A LOT OF EXPLAINING


A SHORT TIME AFTERWARDS AT THE LOCAL F.B.I. HEADQUARTERS...
CAN YOU FIX IT FOR ME, BILL?
IT'S A PRETTY RISKY PLAN, JEFF... BUT I GUESS IT CAN BE ARRANGED. BE DOWN HERE FIRST THING IN THE MORNING!
BRIGHT AND EARLY...
OPEN UP, JOE! NEW BATCH OF CANARIES!
NAME AND CONVICTION!
JEFF MACE. ESPIONAGE. TWENTY YEARS!
NEXT!
YOUR SUITE, PAL, WITH THE WARDEN'S COMPLIMENTS! IF YOU NEED ANYTHING, JUST BEAT YOUR HEAD UP AGAINST THE WALL!
SURE! SURE!
ESPIONAGE... YOU KNOW, A NAZI SPY!
WHY, YOU RAT! I OUGHTA

AFTER A WEEK OF BAD FOOD AND CRAMPED QUARTERS... JEFF GETS TO KNOW SLIM BETTER...
DIFFERENT!
A SHORT TIME LATER
ARE IN CONTROL
THE WARDEN TOO?
A FULL SCALE BREAK!
AMERICAN
GESTAPO!
AND SO THAT NIGHT WHILE SLIM SLEEPS THE PATRIOT GOES TO WORK!
NEED THOSE KEYS!
THUD


THE PATRIOT LOCATES THE HEAD GUARD'S OFFICE . . .
EVERYTHING IS READY HERR KRANZ! THEY WAIT ONLY FOR YOUR SIGNAL!
YA! GOOT! HEIL HITLER!
I'LL MAKE THE LAST CHECKUP MYSELF! LET US GO TAKE A LAST LOOK!
YIPE! NAZI STORM TROOPERS IN AN AMERICAN PRISON . . . AND ON THE WRONG SIDE OF THE BARS! . . . THIS WILL NEVER DO!
THEY LEFT THE DOOR OPEN! GOOD! NOW TO HIDE HERE TILL HE GETS BACK! UH-OH! THAT SOUNDS LIKE HIM NOW!
KRANZ ENTERS AND GOES RIGHT TO WORK! WITH EARPHONES WIRED TO EVERY SPY'S CELL, HE MAKES QUICK AND SECRET CONTACT!!
MEN OF THE NEW ORDER . . . ALL IS SET FOR YOUR ESCAPE! THE EXACT TIME FOR IT IS . . .
BUT NOW THE PATRIOT TAKES OVER AND . . .
TELL THEM THE TIME IS NOW! . . . OR I'LL SNAP YOUR BACK LIKE MATCHWOOD!
AGGH! YA! YA! . . . I'LL DO IT!
THE TIME IS NOW! YOUR GUNS ARE WAITING! MEET IN THE MAIN YARD! HEIL HITLER!
IT HAS COME!
"AMERICA IS OURS!" LET US GO!

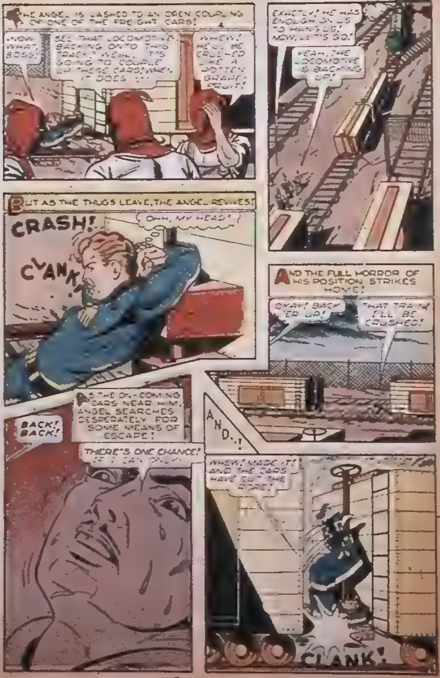
HEY! WHAT A
US? YOU PROM
YEAH!
HELP?! I HAVE NO CHOICE! EVERY LAST MAN IS IN THE MAIN YARD RIGHT NOW!! WHAT HAVE YOU DONE? DO SOMETHING!
THE PATRIOT DOES!
ATTENTION, MEN! LISTEN!!
UGH!
AGHH!
HERE'S YOUR ENEMY! ARE YOU WITH ME?
YOU BET,
AND SO MEN OF AMERICA
WE HERE
GIVE US REAL LIBERTY!
THE NEXT DAY . . .
SIMPLE, PET VERY SIMPLE!
MAYBE THAT'S WHAT I NEED TOO A
REST!
OUT PAY!
THE PATRIOT WILL BE BACK IN THE
MARVEL WITH ANOTHER STORY OF THE WAR ON THE HOME FRONT, AND YOU CAN HELP BY BUYING WAR STAMPS + BONDS!


THE
ANGEL
SAFE

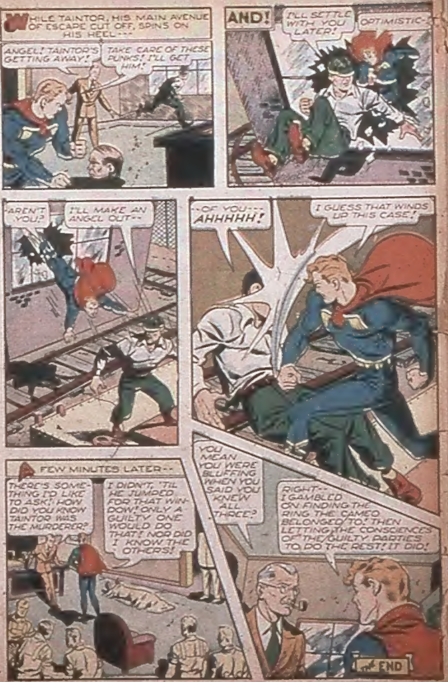
MAIL CAR
ACROSS THE TRACKS!
AHHH!

AND A FEW SECONDS LATER, ON THE LOADING PLATFORM . . .
OF EMPTY FREIGHTS
MASKS ON AND MEET ME THERE RIGHT AWAY!

--STRIKES--!
THUD!
AND-
AHHH!


THE ANGEL IS LASHED TO AN OPEN COUPLING OF ONE OF THE FREIGHT CARS!
NOW WHAT, BOSS?
SEE THAT LOCOMOTIVE BACKING ONTO THIS TRACK? WELL, IT'S GOING TO COUPLE UP THESE CARS! WHEN IT DOES ...
WHEW! HE'LL BE CRUSHED LIKE A ROTTEN GRAPEFRUIT!
EXACTLY! HE HAS ENOUGH ON US TO HANG US! NOW, LET'S GO!
YEAH, THE LOCOMOTIVE IS BACKING UP!
BUT AS THE THUGS LEAVE, THE ANGEL REVIVES!
CRASH!
OHH, MY HEAD!
CLANK!
AND THE FULL HORROR OF HIS POSITION STRIKES HOME!
OKAY! BACK 'ER UP!
THAT TRAIN! I'LL BE CRUSHED!
AS THE ON-COMING CARS NEAR HIM, ANGEL SEARCHES DESPERATELY FOR SOME MEANS OF ESCAPE!
BACK! BACK!
THERE'S ONE CHANCE!
AND..!
CLANK!

NOW TO... WHAT'S THAT ON THE GROUND?
A CAMEO! IT MAY HAVE FALLEN FROM A RING, WORN BY ONE OF THE THUGS!
MOMENTS LATER, IN THE MANAGER'S OFFICE, THE ANGEL PUTS HIS PLAN INTO OPERATION BY CALLING A MEETING OF ALL EMPLOYEES!
WHAT'S WRONG, SIR?
THE ANGEL IS INVESTIGATING THE MURDERS! HE HAS SOMETHING TO SAY TO ALL OF YOU!
YES! A MURDERER AND HIS TWO HENCHMEN ARE HIDING AMONGST YOU! I KNOW HIS HENCHMEN! NOW...
WHAT?
WELL, I'LL BE...
I'M GOING TO PICK OUT THE MURDERER!
WHO?
THE ANGEL'S EYES SHIFT FROM MAN TO MAN AND COME TO REST ON THE RIGHT HAND OF THE... FOREMAN...
SO! MR. TRAITOR! I SEE YOU'VE LOST THE SETTING FROM YOUR RING! IS THIS IT?
I DIDN'T KNOW I LOST... YES, IT IS! WHERE'D YOU FIND IT?
NEAR THE SPOT WHERE YOU TRIED TO MURDER ME TO-NIGHT, TRAITOR, YOU KILLED HANNIGAN...
HE'S WISE, BOYS... LET'S SCRAM...
BUT AS THE THUGS MAKE A DASH FOR THE DOOR, THE ANGEL LEAPS...
C'MON! LETS...
OOOOF!
NO YOU DON'T! YOU'VE A DATE WITH THE EXECUTIONER!


WHILE TAINTOR, HIS MAIN AVENUE OF ESCAPE CUT OFF, SPINS ON HIS HEEL---
ANGEL! TAINTOR'S GETTING AWAY!
TAKE CARE OF THESE PUNKS! I'LL GET HIM!
AND!
I'LL SETTLE WITH YOU LATER!
OPTIMISTIC--
AREN'T YOU?
I'LL MAKE AN ANGEL OUT--
--OF YOU--- AHHHHH!
I GUESS THAT WINDS UP THIS CASE!
A FEW MINUTES LATER--
THERE'S SOMETHING I'D LIKE TO ASK! HOW DID YOU KNOW TAINTOR WAS THE MURDERER?
I DIDN'T, 'TIL HE JUMPED FOR THAT WINDOW! ONLY A GUILTY ONE WOULD DO THAT! NOR DID I KNOW THE OTHERS!
YOU MEAN YOU WERE BLUFFING WHEN YOU SAID YOU KNEW ALL THREE?
RIGHT-- I GAMBLED ON FINDING THE RING THE CAMEO BELONGED TO! THEN LETTING THE CONSCIENCES OF THE GUILTY PARTIES TO DO THE REST! IT DID!
THE END

Be a RADIO Technician

Get Into a Busy Field with a Bright Peacetime Future

I Train Beginners at Home for Good Spare Time and Full Time Radio Jobs

J. E. SMITH, President, National Radio Institute

You Build These and Other Radio Circuits With 6 Big Kits I Send

By the time you've conducted 60 sets of Experiments with Radio Parts I supply, made hundreds of measurements and tests, you'll have PRACTICAL Radio experience valuable in a full or part-time Radio job!

Superheterodyne Circuit. Preselector, oscillator-mixer first detector, I.F. stage, diode detector-a.v.c. stage, audio stage. Bring in local and distant stations on this circuit which you build!

Measuring Instrument you build in Course. Use it in practical Radio work to make EXTRA money. Vacuum tube multimeter, measures A.C., D.C. and R.F. volts, D.C. currents, resistance, receiver output.

A. M. Signal Generator. Build it yourself! Provides amplitude-modulated signals for test and experimental purposes. Gives valuable practical [illegible]

Here's your opportunity to get a good job in a busy field with a bright peacetime future! There is a shortage today of trained Radio Technicians and Operators. So mail the Coupon for my FREE, 64-page, illustrated book, "Win Rich Rewards in Radio." It describes many fascinating types of Radio jobs, tells how N.R.I. trains you at home in spare time—how you get practical experience building Radio Circuits with SIX BIG KITS OF RADIO PARTS I send!

More Men I Trained Now Make [illegible] a Week Than Ever Before

Keeping old Radios working is booming the Radio Repair business. Profits are large. After-the-war prospects are bright. Think of the boom in Radio Sales and Servicing when new Radios are available—when Television, Frequency Modulation and Electronics can be promoted.

Broadcasting Stations, Aviation Radio, Police Radio, Loudspeaker Systems, Radio Manufacturing all offer good jobs now to qualified Radio men—and most of these fields have a big backlog of business that has built up during the war, plus opportunities to expand into new fields opened by wartime developments. You may never see a time again when it will be so easy to get a start in Radio!

Many Beginners Soon Make [illegible] a Week EXTRA in Spare Time

The day you enroll for my Course I start sending you EXTRA MONEY JOB SHEETS that help show how to make EXTRA money fixing Radios in spare time while still learning.

> **TELEVISION, ELECTRONICS FREQUENCY MODULATION**
>
> My up-to-date Course includes training in these new developments.

Find Out What N.R.I. Can Do For You

MAIL COUPON for FREE 64-page book. It's packed with facts—things you [illegible] know about opportunities in Broadcasting, Radio Servicing, Aviation Radio, other Radio fields. Read about my Course—[illegible] how you can train at home. Read many letters from men I trained. MAIL COUPON in an envelope or pasted on a penny postal!—J. E. SMITH, President, Dept. 4NS2, National Radio Institute, Washington 9, D.C.

Broadcasting Stations employ N. R. I. trained Radio Technicians as operators, installation, maintenance men and in other capacities and pay well.

Fixing Radios pays many N.R.I. trained Radio Technicians [illegible] a week. Many others hold their regular jobs and make [illegible] to [illegible] a week EXTRA fixing Radios in spare time.

Radio Operators find good jobs with Shipping Companies, Police Departments, in commercial Aviation. Opportunities are increasing in these fields.

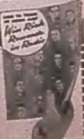
I Trained These Men

[illegible] a Week in Spare Time—"I repaired some Radios when I was on my tenth lesson. I made [illegible] in a year and a half, and have made an average of [illegible] a week—just spare time." JOHN JERRY, [illegible] South [illegible] St., Exeter, Calif.

[illegible] a Month in Own Business—"For several years I have been in business for myself making around [illegible] a month. I have N.R.I. to thank for my start." A. J. FROEHNER, [illegible] W. Texas [illegible] Creek, Texas.

Our 30th Year of Training Men for Success in Radio

FREE TO MEN WHO WANT BETTER JOBS



J. E. SMITH, President, Dept. 4NS2
National Radio Institute, Washington 9, D. C.

Mail me FREE, without obligation, your 64-page book: "Win Rich Rewards in Radio." (No salesman will call. Write plainly.)

Name...Age..................

Address...

City...State..................

FREE 150 POWER MICROSCOPE
with this offer
COMPLETE READY TO USE
Here's a fine, complete microscope for you FREE. This superb instrument magnifies 150 times, and is all ready to use at once. Substantially made, this wonderful microscope rests in a large base, has a tilted stand, with adjustable mirror. It has powerful lenses, with focusing adjustment.
nothing to assemble. It is completely equipped. Everything packed in a neat, sturdy corrugated container! This marvelous microscope reveals to your fascinated eyes thousands of nature's hidden secrets and wonders of living things—insects, microbes, foods, minerals, etc.—beautiful, monstrous, strange and bewildering . . . Study these thousands of objects by turning on them this 150-power microscope—perform simple and startling experiments on them, and become the envy of your friends.
This whole outfit made in U.S.A.—complete microscope, slides and directions—are yours ABSOLUTELY FREE . . . while the supply lasts . . . by quickly accepting our amazing offer on the big, Miracle-book of science and nature, WONDERS OF LIVING THINGS.
PACKED WITH 1,000 PICTURES
This sensational volume is easy to read, thrilling to follow, simple to understand. Photographs explain the text, picture-diagrams illustrate the stories, and pictorial life-stories amplify the exciting information. There are dozens of absorbing chapters on thousands of animals, plants and human life. Hundreds and hundreds of pictures of every kind and size, and even wonderful panoramic pictures OVER A FOOT WIDE. Learn nature and science the quick, new, easy, picture-story way. Your friends will soon be astonished by your immense knowledge. Everyone will admire you.
THE MIRACLE WORLD OF ALL LIFE
When you open this BIG MIRACLE BOOK
in BIG, PICTURE-CROWDED PAGES.
BIG FREE OFFER
EXAMINE IT FREE
THIS BIG FREE OFFER IS LIMITED
ACT WHILE THE SUPPLY LASTS. Send no money. RUSH COUPON TODAY.
RUSH COUPON NOW
ORDER WHILE SUPPLY LASTS
SEND NO MONEY
METRO PUBLICATIONS, Dept. 212-P
50 West 17th Street, New York 11, N.Y.
Send me a copy of WONDERS OF LIVING THINGS
NAME
ADDRESS
Canadian orders $1.50 in advance.